

Brinckerhoff House
Brinckerhoff
Dutchess County
New York

4130
HABS No. NY ~~3110~~

HABS
NY,
14-BRINC,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District 3 of New York

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared by Washington Office

HABS N.Y. 4130
348

JOHN BRINKERHOFF HOUSE
NEAR BRINKERHOFF
DUTCHESS COUNTY, N.Y.

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OWNER OR CUSTODIAN: The house passed out of the family in 1884 and is now owned by Polish people who live in it, Jeodas Witala, also of New York City.

DATE OF ERECTION: Built in 1738 by John Brinkerhoff, who died in 1785.

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: John Brinkerhoff

PRESENT CONDITION: Good.

NUMBER OF STORIES: Two stories.

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION: Built of stone, the front walls now being covered with cement, and the east gable clapboarded. The west gable is built with red brick and contains the date "1738" built in with black brick.

ADDITIONAL RECORDS: "Dutch Homes in the Hudson Valley before 1776" by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, P 322-324.

ADDITIONAL DATA: The floor plan consists of central hall, with large front room and a small back room on either side. The first staircase was at left rear of hall and was enclosed, space for same was taken from the west parlor bedroom. Of the original woodwork there remains the paneled window casing in west parlor bedroom; two paneled bedroom doors in the second story and two paneled doors at the rear of the main hall. Interior alterations were made about 1800.

Hamilton R. Gibbs, Hist.

JOHN BRINKERHOFF HOUSE,
TOWN OF FISHKILL,
DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

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This house stands just off the Brinkerhoff-Hopewell Road, Route 82, near Swartwoutville, Dutchess County, New York.

Early type of stone, with brick gable ends and dormer windows. Black bricks inlaid among the red, outline the figures "1738".

The house illustrates a transition in domestic architecture; its stone walls reflect the houses of the first settlers; but in the height of its ceilings and in wood trim it shows the progress and development of the mid ~~XX~~ eighteenth century.

While the Continental Army was centered at Fishkill, Washington was John Brinkerhoff's guest, in this house for sometime.

Tract of land purchased by Dirck Brinkerhoff of Flushing, part of large tract from Madam Brett. John Brinkerhoff settled on this land after his marriage in 1725 to Sonnetje Van Voothees. In 1738 he built this house on the high, fertile flat which lies on the west bank of the sprout Creek, near the confluence of Sprout and Viskill, from which there is a beautiful view of the Clove and Beacons.

In the fall of 1778 General Washington made this house his headquarters from time to time. He occupied the bedroom No. 3 back of the parlor on the west side of the house while there. There is a tradition in the family that the "motherly" Mrs. Brinkerhoff personally saw that the Comander-in-Chief was warmly tucked in bed on cold nights.

Another distinguished guest was General Lafayette, who it is said once spent a week there.

The house of John Brinkerhoff is on the south side of the main highway between Fishkill and Hopewell, off a long avenue outlined by stonewalls and maple trees.

Built of stone, a story and a half high with a large attic space, the front wall is now covered with cement and the east gable clapboarded. The west gable is filled with red bricks and contains the date-1738, built in black bricks. Of the original wood trim there remains the panelled window casing in the west parlor bedroom, the panelled bedroom doors in the second story, and two at the rear of the main wall, one which shut off the former staircase (now a pantry) and the other presumably gave entrance to a cellar stairway. The ceiling are high, an unusual feature for the year 1738, when heating facilities were inadequate.

In the north wall of the house are two windows which are high and narrow, the panes, 3 in a row, 3 rows in each sash, belonging to the first years of the house.

Sheet No. 2

About 1800, a partition was built dividing the original hall into two parts (the first portion was finished with paneled wainscoting about 4 feet high) and doors to correspond for the southwest parlor.

A wood mantel covered in Adam details was placed in Room 1, known as the southwest parlor, and two handsome carved door casings matched the mantel.

In the front East Room, a wood mantel was added which bears an Adam design applied in plaster.

The present main stairway is of the late 19th century.
All the other windows in the house are of the 19th century.

In the west front room, the fireplace contains a particularly fine wrought iron fire back, the center of which is occupied by the spirited figure of an angel, carrying a staff or crook, and flanked by conventionalized flowers and human figures.

The decorations about 1800 are presumably the work of John Brinkerhoff Van Wyck, his grandson, dating from the time of his second marriage in 1798.

In 1926 the house, (built by John Brinkerhoff), was purchased by Toodor Wiitala of New York City, representing a group of Finnish Americans who will use the house and farm as a co-operative colony.

Additional References: Helen Wilkinson Reynolds - "Dutch Houses and Doorways."